



SEPTEMBER 22, 2011 MA-DR-4028—NR - 018

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GREENFIELD, PITTSFIELD DRCS TO CLOSE ON SATURDAY, OCT 1

Westfield, Mass. – Two Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) – at Green River Elementary School, 62 Meridian Street in Greenfield and the Pittsfield Public Library, 1 Wendell Avenue in Pittsfield – will close permanently on Saturday, October 1, disaster officials announced today. On this final day of operations, these two DRCs will open at 9 a.m. and close at 2 p.m.

"The number of visits by applicants to these two DRCs has greatly declined, and we feel that the majority of those needing assistance have taken advantage of these center's services," said Federal Coordinating Officer James N. Russo. "FEMA and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) keep DRCs open for as long as needed in each location."

Anyone needing further help may call FEMA's toll-free helpline at**1-800-621-FEMA (3362).** Individuals with a speech or hearing disability may call (**TTY**) **1-800-462-7585** from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Help is also available by going online to www.disasterassistance.gov as well as by using mobile devices and going to m.fema.gov, 24 hours a day.

Applicants may also visit any of the two remaining DRCs that continue to operate in Berkshire and Franklin counties. Beginning Saturday, new hours of operation will go into effect. Both of the DRCs listed below will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays until further notice.

Buckland

Mohawk Trail Regional High School 26 Ashfield Road Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Williamstown

Developers Finance Building 430 Main Street Williamstown, MA 01267

Representatives from FEMA, MEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other agencies are available at these DRCs to explain disaster assistance programs. Recovery specialists also can provide applicants with referral assistance to other programs. Anyone receiving a U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loan application can meet with a representative for answers to their questions and help filling out the loan application.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.